

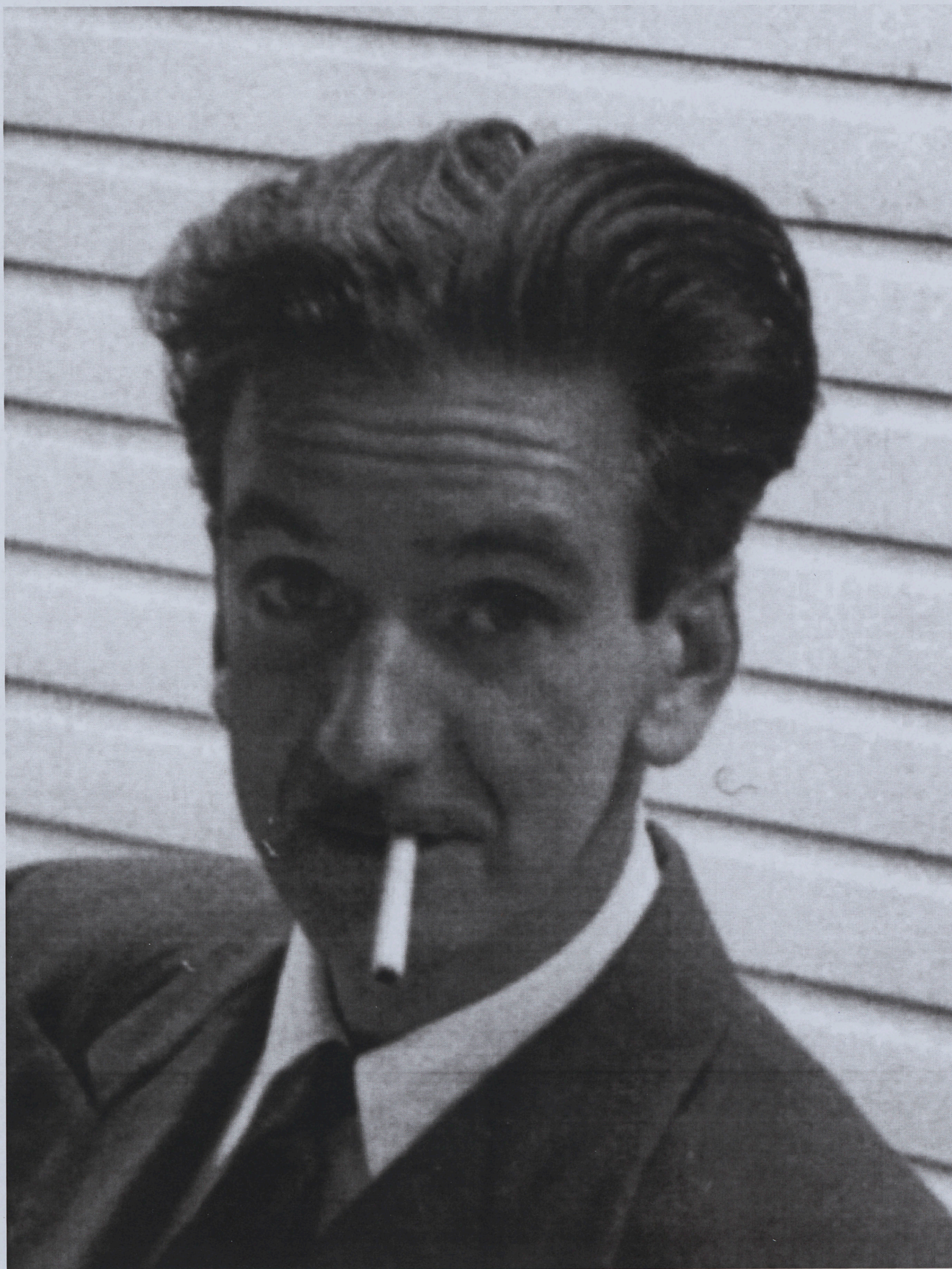
Biographical Information from Christine Elizabeth Reidthaler-Lucas, 215 South Monroe Street, Suite 710, Tallahassee FL 32301, April 2018

Willard Alvin Riedthaler was born on October 5, 1910, in Cleveland, Ohio to John Riedthaler and Wilhelmine Elizabeth Laubuschewski Riedthaler. He was the second of thirteen children they had together. During the Depression, he worked for the WPA painting murals in downtown Cleveland, as well as another project started by President Roosevelt that my Great Aunt Virginia calls the "Three C's Camp" which she says involved things like digging roads. He was a member of the Cocoon Arts Club in Cleveland, and in the late 1930s went to an art show in Detroit with his friend, Fred Henz. There he met Georgianna Elizabeth Stephan, and they were married two weeks later. In 1941, their only child, Christina Elizabeth Riedthaler*, was born. Willard died on October 11, 1968, in Jacksonville, Florida, at the age of 58. His widow, nicknamed Bette, continued to live in their home until her death. I visited with her there in late 1999, and her home was filled with other works by Willard along with her own pieces. He was also a talented woodworker, and did much of the ornate cabinetry in their home.

*Christina Elizabeth Riedthaler is my cousin. I was born in 1966 and named Christine Elizabeth Riedthaler. Since our names are so similar, it would be easy to confuse me with the artists' daughter.

I am attaching a photograph of Willard, and would be pleased to give your curator any additional information, or put him in touch with my Great Aunt Virginia, if you wish.

Willard Riedthaler



[Image donated by Christine Elizabeth Riedthaler-Lucas, April 2018]

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